

Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/604,743
Docket No.: 8376-US-PA-0C

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

The Office Action rejects claims 1-20 under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1 of U.S. Patent No. 6,673,711. In response thereto, Applicants hereby submit a terminal disclaimer to overcome the rejection.

Double Patenting Rejection

The Office Action rejected claims 1-20 under double patenting with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,673,711.

Applicants believe that the claimed invention recited in claims 1-20 distinguishes over the issued U.S. Patent No. 6,673,711 even though it may have some similar features. While respectfully disagreeing with the Examiner's statement, Applicant nevertheless submitting a terminal disclaimer to expedite prosecution of this application. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the obviousness-type double patenting rejection has been rendered moot and/or accommodated. Reconsideration and withdrawn of the rejection are respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that the pending claims 1-20 are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Date :

Sept. 24, 2004.

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